

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING **Health & Human Services**

The regular meeting of the Health & Human Services Committee was held in the Hubbard Auditorium, Tuesday, December 7, 2021 at 8:35 AM.

Present: Mr. William Standing	Chair of the Committee
Mr. Tracy Monell	Legislator
Mr. Dennis Mullen	Legislator
Ms. Loretta Sullivan	Legislator
Ms. Lori Morgan	Director of Community Services
Mr. Chris Korba	Director of Administrative Services - MH
Mr. Shawn Yetter	Commissioner of Social Services
Mr. Gary Grant	Deputy Commissioner of Social Services
Ms. Lisa McCafferty	Public Health Director
Mr. Denis McCann	Director of Administrative Services - PH
Guests: Ms. Marte Sauerbrey	Chair of the Legislature
Mr. Jake Brown	Legislator-Elect for Ms. Sullivan's district
Mr. Peter DeWind	County Attorney (Arrived @ 9:00 AM)
Ms. Cathy Haskell	Legislative Clerk

Legislative Committee Chair Mr. Bill Standing announced that this would be Ms. Loretta Sullivan's last HHS Committee meeting as she is retiring and replacing her will be Mr. Jake Brown who is present today. Mr. Standing also reported that former Legislator Ron Dougherty passed away recently and asked that we keep his family in our thoughts.

MENTAL HYGIENE

1. Budget Status

- Mr. Chris Korba noted the 2021 budget is tracking well with 62% of the local share used and the Fee-For-Service revenue coming in. He expects to meet budget at year end and hopes to have a return. Criminal Psychiatric care for one client has been paid through July. Ms. Morgan shared that the client was possibly discharged at the end of September or beginning of October, but MH has not received any more invoices past July. Ms. Morgan mentioned that there is the potential for an additional Tioga county resident entering criminal psychiatric services this year. There is more money in the 2022 budget for criminal psychiatric services. MH applied for federal COVID relief and received \$76,000 last week.

2. Personnel

- None.
- Expected Social Worker opening coming. Recruitment remains difficult. MH has received a \$13,000 grant for recruitment which they will use for continuing education.

3. Critical Issues/Topics

- 730 Criminal Psych (discussed above). Ms. Morgan reported that there were 2 new 730 Criminal Psych clients recently; one was found competent, and one was not. Expect to have a new inpatient client soon.

4. Resolutions

- None.

5. Proclamations

- None.

SOCIAL SERVICES

Commissioner Yetter discussed caseloads, programmatic highlights, and personnel changes.

1. Budget

- Mr. Gary Grant shared that the 2021 budget is running at or under in most program areas. Foster Care lines continue to remain high. The 2022 budget reflects the higher costs. He expects to have a return to local share at the end of the year. The cars that were ordered in July have not come in and he may need to re-appropriate the funding for next year. Commissioner Yetter stated that the community has stepped up to donate gifts for the foster care and preventive services kids.

2. Caseloads

- During November, Cash Assistance increased 2 cases, with Family Assistance remaining flat and Safety Net increasing 2 cases. Cash Assistance is down 15% for the year.
- MA-Only increased 20 cases.
- MA-SSI remained flat.
- Total Individuals on Medicaid increased 17 cases to 3,774.
- SNAP cases increased 25 cases.
- Day Care increased 9 cases.
- Services increased 5 cases. The number of kids in foster care is higher than in years' past. A lot are substance abuse related. Between DSS and local agencies, placement is getting better after the height of the pandemic.
- See Caseload Summary.

3. Programmatic Highlights

- Tioga Career Center Report attached. Unemployment in Tioga County remains below the state and federal averages. There continue to be lots of job openings in Tioga County.

4. Personnel Changes

- Amy Link, AAll at SCU, was hired effective 11/8/2021.
- Marley Norton, Caseworker, was hired back effective 11/8/2021.
- Eric Silvanic was promoted to Case Supervisor, Grade B, effective 11/8/2021.
- Paulina Amaro Santiago, OS1, Seasonal HEAP, last day 11/22/2021.

5. Resolutions

- None.

6. Proclamations

- None.

Legislator Standinger asked for a motion to approve the October 5, 2021 HHS Committee minutes as written. Motion made by Legislator Mullen. Seconded by Legislator Sullivan. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Ms. Lisa McCafferty presented highlights, and resolutions.

1. Personnel

- None.

2. Program Comments

- Agency Report for November 2021 was forwarded to the Committee.

3. Budget

- Agency Financials for November 2021 were forwarded to the Committee. Mr. Denis McCann noted that the budget is tracking well, without any surprises. EI Escrow account has continued its slightly increasing trend. November was a high revenue month and NYS has been paying claims quicker. He expects to have a return to local share at the end of the year.

4. Resolutions

- Authorize Exception to Employee Handbook Section IV. Personnel Rules – Subsection J: Non-Union Vacation.
- Amend Budget & Appropriate Funds (Healthy Neighborhood Program).
- Reappoint Member to the Tioga County Board of Health (Standing).
- Reappoint Member to the Tioga County Board of Health (Kapur-Pado).
- Authorize Creation of Full Time Local Coordinator Position. (ELC Public Fellows Grant)
- Authorize Creation of Temporary Full Time Office Specialist I Position. (ELC Public Fellows Grant)
- Amend Budget & Appropriate Funds (ELC Grant Funding).

5. Proclamations

- Fire Prevention Month (New, Adam Ace to receive).

There was a brief discussion on the Omicron variant. PH remains very busy tracking and issuing quarantine orders.

ADJOURNED:

Regular Meeting was adjourned at 9:25 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail V. Perdue

Executive Secretary, Social Services